



hf happenings



Early Warning

The second leg of the 2015 South African Radio League National Field Day takes place over the weekend of **12 and 13 September 2015**.

No, NOT November - National Field Day is February and September!



The 2015 CQ Worldwide WPX Contest

CW: 30 and 31 May 2015 - starts 00:00 UTC Saturday and ends 23:59 UTC Sunday. Visit <http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm> for the detailed rules or turn to page for a summary of the rules.

South African Radio League Digital Contest

The aim of the Digital Contest is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs in Southern Africa using the PSK31 and/or RTTY modes. The contest is open to all radio amateurs in Southern Africa. The second contest takes place from 13:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC on Sunday 31 May 2015 with activity on 80 metres (3 580 to 3 600 kHz), 40 metres (7 040 to 7 060 kHz) and 20 metres (14 070 to 14 099 kHz).

PSK31 is preferred at the lower end of the specified frequencies and RTTY is preferred at the upper end of the specified

frequencies. Please note that USB must be used at all times. A station may be contacted twice on each band once on RTTY, once on PSK31.

The exchange is a RST report plus a sequential serial number starting at 001. Contacts with stations in Southern Africa are worth 3 points and contacts with stations outside Southern Africa are worth 1 point.

The first contact with each area listed below will be used as a band multiplier. Area 1: ZS1; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7: 3DA, 7P, 7Q, 9J, C9, A2, D2, V5, Z2, ZD7, ZD9, ZS7, ZS8, FR, 3B8, 5R, FH and D6 and Area 8: Stations in the rest of the world. Band total = QSO points X number of call areas worked per band. The final score =sum of the band totals.

Logs must be submitted by 7 June 2015 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za

Mount Athos, SV/A, (Update)

If you have not heard, the SV2/YL7A operation is not going to take place. Kostas, SV1DPI, who talked with SV2ASP/A reported on 19 May, "Monk Apollo is outside Mount Athos, working with the olives but he offered himself to ask Holy Council and inform us about the operation. The official news is that Holy Council prohibited the entrance of the YL guys in Mount Athos because they announced a Ham Radio operation without a license from Holy Council. The YL guys have a visa to enter Mount Athos this morning as pilgrims but NOT a license to operate. After this they can not enter in Mount Athos either as pilgrims." The latest news is that the team was on



No 657

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
1925 - 2015

May 2015

Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

www.sarl.org.za www.iar.org www.iaru-r1.org



their way home on 21 May. The complete details are now online at

<http://www.lral.lv/exped/sv2/y17a>

Changes to Radio ZS

One of the agenda points discussed at the 2015 Strategic Meeting of the Council was the way forward with Radio ZS. It has been decided that from the July 2015 issue, there will be eleven issues per year. Further, Radio ZS will only be available from the League in an electronic format as a PDF document. You as the reader are welcome to print your own copy.

The editor wishes to thank Kevin McDonald, ZS6KMD, Etienne Naude, ZS6EFN, Frik Wolf, ZS6FZ, and Mike Bosch, ZS2FM, who have come forward and will be providing regular columns for Radio ZS. Thanks to the Sasolburg Amateur Radio Club with the first article for the Club Corner. Clubs are invited to submit an article about your Club - history, activities, meeting times, bulletin times, etc. Also thanks to Pine Pienaar, ZS6GST, for his regular Afrikaans articles.

Anybody willing to look after satellites, Youth, SWL, etc. Our ladies, what about a YL column? Send the editor an e-mail to radiozs@sarl.org.za

So the ball is in your court, League member, Radio ZS is YOUR journal, please provide the material to ensure that a bumper issue is available each month.

Radio ZS Photo competition

Following a suggestion by Pierre, ZS6A, on the Zone 38 Facebook page, the editor of Radio ZS is challenging members to provide a photograph to grace the cover of Radio ZS.

What is required is a portrait size photograph, not a 'selfie' of the operator, but of the station setup, possibly including the operator, capturing the magic and the ambience of Amateur Radio.

Adventure Radio such as RaDAR, Islands on the Air, Summits on the Air, Castles on the Air, CQ Hou Koers, Jamboree on the Air, etc., will get preference.

May

- 1 – Worker's Day
- 2 – Open day at Leeuwberg "The Fall of Berlin"
- 3 – ZS3 Sprint
- 9 and 10 – AWA Valve QSO Party
- 10 - Mother's Day; SARL Youth Net
- 14 - Ascension Day
- 15 to 17 – Dayton Hamvention
- 21 – Radio Amateur Examination
- 24 to 28 – Pentecost
- 30 – AGM of the Namibian Amateur Radio League
- 30 and 31 – CQ WPX CW Contest
- 31 - SARL Digital Contest; Comrades Marathon

June

- 5 – World Environmental Day
- 6 – AriA, Cape Town; KARTS and AWA Flea Market
- 6 and 7 – IARU Region 1 CW Field Day
- 8 – World Oceans day
- 10 to 13 – Namibia Tourism Expo, Windhoek
- 13 to 30 – Winter in Calitzdorp
- 13 to 16 – Napier Patatfees
- 14 – ZS4 Sprint; SARL Youth Net
- 15 – School holiday
- 16 - Youth Day
- 17 – World QRP Day
- 18 – Start of Ramadan
- 20 – SA AMSAT Symposium
- 21 – Father's Day; Winter Solstice
- 24 to 28 – De Rust Eco Festival
- 25 to 29 – SARL Top Band QSO Party
- 26 – All schools close
- 26 to 28 - Ham Radio, Friedrichshafen, Germany
- 27 and 28 – Christmas in die winter, Tulbagh
- 30 – Your SARL membership expires

There is a small antenna related prize for the covers of the next five issues of Radio ZS.



Morse code in a new book and on TV

Samuel FB Morse sent the first telegraph message from Washington to Baltimore on 24 May 1844. The 171st anniversary of his achievement saw Morse code featuring in both a science fiction book and a TV show.

On 23 May 2015 the science fiction TV show 'Thunderbirds Are Go' episode nine "Slingshot" featured the use of Morse code. Alan Tracy used Morse from the Thunderbird 3 spacecraft to contact a mining engineer on an asteroid plunging towards the Sun. It can be watched on ITV player and a review can be seen at

<http://www.screenrelish.com/2015/05/23/thunderbirds-are-go-slingshot-review/>

A new science fiction book 'Seveneves' by Neal Stephenson was published on 21 May 2015 and features Morse code and Q codes.

In an interview published on JS online Neal has this to say about Morse code, "*It's a very simple robust kind of system of communicating. It endured for a long time, and it still endures with a subset of amateur radio users. I wasn't consciously trying to make a big point about it because, when you get overly pointed in your writing, it kind of shows and people tune out. There actually are amateur radio connections between the International Space Station and the ground. I just thought that was an interesting detail.*

I wanted to make that link to an older generation of amateur science. When I was a kid and you were a kid that had the same role in society as the Internet and hackers and makers and so on have now. You could get these books at the library, how to build your own radio. I can remember reading these instructions on how to make your own crystal detector by digging up a hunk of rock and finding the right kind of crystal. Winding your own coils and stringing up your own antenna. It was a very approachable style of tech. It drew in a lot of smart kids living on farms and in small towns and in places where they otherwise wouldn't have had access to that kind of technology."

The first 26 pages of Seveneves can be read online at

www.nealstephenson.com/news/2015/04/13/seveneves-excerpt/

Neal Stephenson talks about his new book, 'Seveneves,' and real science at www.jsonline.com/entertainment/books/neal-stephenson-talks-about-his-new-book-seveneves-and-real-science-b99496808z1-303598661.html

Seveneves is available on Amazon at www.amazon.com/Seveneves-Neal-Stephenson-ebook/dp/BOORORGSLG/

African Islands



IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18

098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

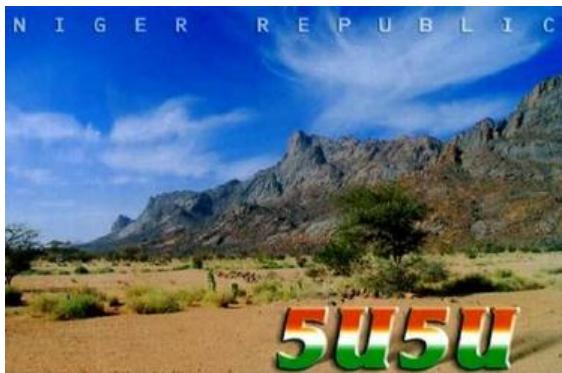
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128
14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Canary Islands, EA8. Jeff, N6GQ, will be active from the Canary Islands during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 24 and 25 October as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry using two radios (SO2R) with mono-bander antennas. His call sign was not provided. QSL via LoTW.

African DX

Tunisia, 3V. Ashraf "Ash", 3V4-002/KF5EYY, and Jun, JH4RHF, will be active as 3V8SS from the "Radio Club Station of Tunisian Scouts" in Sousse, during the CQ WPX CW Contest as a Multi-Op/Single-TX/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via LoTW or to LX1NO. Read about Ashraf on the following Web page at <http://www.kf5eyy.info>

Morocco, 5C. Members of the URE Cartagena team will be active from the ARRAN HQ club station (CN8MC) in Rabat as 5C5T during the CQ WPX CW Contest as a Multi-Single/Low-Power entry. QSL via EA5YU, by the Spanish Bureau or direct. Operators mentioned are Juan, EA5BLJ, Jose, EA5CP, and Jose, EA5YU.



Niger, 5U. Chris, F4WBN, will be active holiday-style as 5U5U from Niamey between 30 May and 16 June on 40 to 6 m on SSB and some RTTY. QSL via F4WBN, direct.

Zimbabwe, Z2. Operators Petr, OK1FCJ, Pavel, OK1FPS, and David, OK6DJ, will be active as Z21MG from Zimbabwe between 18 and 30 September. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and the digital modes. They also plan to be active in the CQ WW DX RTTY Contest on 26 and 27 September. QSL via OK6DJ, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog's OQRS, LoTW or eQSL. For more details and updates, see <http://www.cdxp.cz>



History this week

Starting Monday 25 May 2015

1818 - The first steam-vessel to sail the Great Lakes is launched

1874 - TA Edison was issued a patent for a device concerning "Automatic Telegraphy and in Perforators Therefor"

1879 - The first electric railway opens at the Berlin Trades Exposition

1883 - TA Edison received a series of patents including the "Manufacture of Incandescent Electric Lamps"

1884 - Dr John Harvey Kellogg applied for a patent for "flaked cereal"

1896 - The first car accident occurs when Henry Wells hit a bicyclist in New York City

1911 - My grandfather Olinsky was born in Oudtshoorn

1919 - Oil was struck at England's first inland oil well at Hardstoft near Tibshelf, in Derbyshire

1928 - The first US television station WGY began broadcasting regular programs

1946 - A patent is filed in the US for the H-Bomb

1978 - Cpl Dennis Green and Cpl Johan de Bruin get Ratel ICV R27029 stuck on the beach at Wortel, south of Walvis Bay (26 May)

1978 - The Ratel is recovered from the grip of the sea sand and tides (27 May)



West Rand

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club is hosting its next market for fleas at 12:00 on Saturday 30 May 2015 at their clubhouse in Kroton Street, Weltevreden Park, Roodepoort. Everybody is welcome. For more information, contact Nick, ZS6NCK, on mobile 082 454 1272.

Between West and East Rand

The Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society (KARTS) and the Antique Wireless Association of Southern Africa (AWASA) will host their combined market for fleas and open day event on Saturday 6 June 2015 from 10:00 onwards. The venue is the Impala Voortrekker Centre, 46 Rooibos Avenue, Allen Grove in Kempton Park.

For table bookings or any enquiries, contact Selwyn, ZS6SEL, at 082 804 2782 or Nico, ZS6QL, at 083 269 9939

East Rand

The Winter Market for Fleas of the East Rand Radio Club will be held from 12:00 on Saturday 27 June 2015. Bring lots of money (*but do not tell your wife*) because you may find something you need or want for a bargain. Also, bring all your unwanted stuff, which you want to get rid of because, there may be someone that need it.

Raffle tickets will be available for R30-00 a ticket to win a brand new Daiwa CN-801 cross needle SWR/Power meter valued at R2 250. With thanks to Sam's Radio

Accessories. The draw will only take place on our October 2015 flea market.

Boerewors rolls and cold beverages will be available. Bring the family and come enjoy the day with us.

If you want to book a table at R30 per table, contact Judy on 079 730 2030 or e-mail to zs6erb@gmail.com



Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 25 May to 1 June 2015

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 29 May 2015

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php?submit_id=99

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27

May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 30 May 2015

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

UKEICC 80 m Contest

20:00 - 21:00 UTC 27 May

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op Connected - open, low or QRP; Single Op Unconnected - open, low or QRP

Max power: Open: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 27 May 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/contest-rules/ukeicc-80-m-contests-rules>

Get on the RaDAR....and GO!



NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 May

Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 May 2015
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 May

Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 May 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ WW WPX CW Contest
00:00 UTC 30 May to 23:59 UTC 31 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 4 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO between stations in NA; 2 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO between stations in NA; 1 point per QSO with same country

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 June 2015

E-mail logs to: cw@cqwpix.com

Upload log at:

<http://www.cqwpix.com/logcheck/>

Mail logs to: CW WPX Contest, PO Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.cqwpix.com/rules.htm>

SARL Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC 31 May

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 7 June 2015

E-mail logs to: contest@sarl.org.za

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.sarl.org.za/Document_Store/CONT_20150101_SARL_Contest_Manual_2015.pdf



QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint

20:00 - 24:00 local 31 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent; Bonus: 5 000 points if you operate portable using battery power and a temporary antenna

Multipliers: States, once per band; VE Provinces, once per band; Countries, once per band

Power Mult: >5 W = x 1, 1 - 5 W = x 7, 250 mW - 1 W = x 10, 55 - 250 mW = x 15, <55 mW = x 20

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 14 June 2015

E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org

Mail logs to: ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint, c/o Jeff Hetherington, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada

Find rules at:

<http://www.qrparci.org/contests/hoot-owl-sprint>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 1 June

Mode: RTTY, PSK

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 8 June 2015

Upload log at:

<http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml>



Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 June
 CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 June
 NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (Dig) 4 June
 NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 5 June
 NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 June
 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, 00:00 UTC 6 June to 24:00 UTC 7 June
 DigiFest, 04:00 - 12:00 UTC 6 June and 20:00 UTC 6 June to 04:00 UTC and 12:00 - 20:00 UTC 7 June
 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, 06:00 - 06:29 UTC, 06:30 - 06:59 UTC, 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 6 June
 VK Shires Contest, 06:00 UTC 6 June to 06:00 UTC 7 June
 SEANET Contest, 12:00 UTC 6 June to 12:00 UTC 7 June
 UKSMG Summer Contest, 13:00 UTC 6 June to 13:00 UTC 7 June
 ADRAD Kayldall DMR Contest, 13:00 - 19:00 UTC 6 June
 RSGB National Field Day, 15:00 UTC 6 June to 15:00 UTC 7 June
 IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW, 15:00 UTC 6 June to 14:59 UTC 7 June
 Dutch Kingdom Contest, 15:00 UTC 6 June to 15:00 UTC 7 June
 Alabama QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 6 June to 04:00 UTC 7 June

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin

Platberg Harrismith Backpackers

Accommodation

- Dormitory Bed
- 6 Bunks (6 pax)
- Private Room
- Double Bed Couple (2 pax)
- Private Room
- 1 Double, 2 Bunk (4 pax)

All Guests Have Access To:

- A Shared Bathroom
- A Private Bathroom
- A Shared Kitchen
- TV Lounge
- Braai Area
- Internet Station (R25-00 / 30min)
- Phone Line (World Call Cards)
- Mountain Bike Rental (R50-00 Half day / R80-00 Full day)
- Washing Machine Rental (R30-00 per bundle - 8kg)

Please note that prices may change without prior notice

55 Biddulph Street, Harrismith
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info@platbergbackpackers.co.za
www.platbergbackpackers.co.za